

Serial No.: 09/778,754
Art Unit: 2875

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Office Action mailed on March 9, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-36 are respectfully requested.

Present Status of the Patent Application

Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-36 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, and 7-36 have been rejected. Claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 25, 35, and 36 have been amended. Claim 13 has been cancelled.

Examiner Interview

Briefly spoke with Examiner Bao Truong on May 12, 2004. We discussed differentiating the present invention from the Makita device (a vehicle headlight), and I proposed amending the independent claims by adding an element, such as "a lamp socket contained entirely in the housing." Examiner Truong did not commit to the allowance of the proposed amended claims, but asked me to submit an amendment so he could review it.

Response to Drawing Objections

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 25, 35, and 36 to remove the term "light emitting" eliminating these drawing objections.

Response to Specification Objections

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 25, 35, and 36 to remove the term "light emitting" eliminating these specification objections.

Response to Claim Objections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 25, 35, and 36 to remove the term "light emitting" eliminating these claim objections.

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Response To Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12-21, 25-29, 32, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by Makita (U.S. Patent No. 4,543,468). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, because Makita fails to disclose "a lamp socket contained entirely within the housing."

Instead, Makita discloses a lamp assembly for an automobile having a tilting member such as a lamp unit or reflector whose optical axis is adjustable by optical axis adjusting rods. The lamp assembly includes a support member (housing) A as a lamp unit casing, a tilting member B as a reflector, a front lens E, a light bulb F, a bulb socket G, optical axis adjusting rods 1, adjusting knobs 1a, and a support leg rod 6. The support member (housing) A is fixed to a vehicle body D using set screws 8. As shown in Fig. 1, the bulb socket G is contained partially within and partially outside of support member (housing) A. Vehicle body D and waterproof cover H provide protection from the elements for the bulb socket G that is clearly not provided by support member (housing) A. Clearly, Makita does not disclose "a lamp socket contained entirely within the housing."

As stated above, Makita does not anticipate all of the features in amended claims 1, 14, 15, 25, 35, and 36. Therefore, claims 1, 14, 15, 25, 35, and 36 are patentable over Makita.

Dependent Claims:

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7-12, 16-24, and 26-34 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claims 1, 15, and 25, respectively.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-36 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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